

Lewis Tappan,

Oct. 23 — 41.

New York, Oct. 23^d. 1841.

Dr Mr Phelps,

50

By some accident or other your letter of the 21st was not delivered to me from the Post Office till this morning. And today I have been so occupied that I entirely overlooked your letter till near the last moment, when it was too late.

You would not authorize an announcement to be made of course until you learned that the Merchants would certainly go to Boston at the time.

I have been looking at a vessel today I have pretty much made up my own mind, but must wait until Monday, to see Mr Leavitt before we can decide. Mr Jocelyn is at Boston I believe. We want to get a vessel & fix upon the time of her sailing before we visit Boston &c. When we go we wish to have a definite object before us. On Monday or Tuesday I can write to you. They can not, at any rate, go ^{to Boston} till week after next.

In writing to you I did not expect you would devote much time, & I shall be glad to compensate whoever you may employ on this business at any time.

You fear we "are precipitate in sending them home." We must send them this fall or keep them another year ^{on account of the state of the weather}. Our money is about gone & the expense of keeping them would be enormous. They are very impatient to go, & since the subject has been renewedly agitated their minds are off their studies almost entirely. We have applied to the President. He says there is no law authorizing him to send them home specially & no cruiser is about going to the Coast of Africa.

Wm Raymond & wife had engaged to go & we had reason
to expect that our colored brother Pennington of Hartford wd
go also. We therefore thought it safe to make an appeal to
the public for funds, as it takes a good while to diffuse
such information & get returns. We intimated in the Appeal
our desire to have another person as a missionary.

Pennington has declined.

Raymond has a brother he speaks highly & who is spoken
well of by others, who may go.

But as you say we want a teacher. We have thought
so from the beginning. When is the man? Do put a
paragraph or two into your religious paper on the subject - in
such a way that other religious papers will copy.

Give us all the best you can.

Yours very truly,
Lewis Tappan